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If you've turned on the TV or read the newspaper over the last few weeks, you've probably heard all about the economic stimulus package being debated in Congress. I've heard all sorts of opinions, but I support the economic stimulus package for two simple reasons: (1) it will create or retain millions of jobs, and (2) it will provide tax cuts for middle class families.

And what does the economic stimulus bill mean for Iowa? If passed into law, this legislation will save or create 34,000 Iowa jobs over the next two years and lower taxes for over 1 million Iowa families.

I recently traveled around eastern Iowa to hold town hall meetings on the economic stimulus package. Over 1,000 Iowans came to my three meetings in Davenport, Dubuque and Waterloo-and over 5,000 joined a telephone town hall a week later. After hearing countless stories on how the economic downturn is impacting Iowa, I'm even more convinced that we need to take action to rebuild our economy.

Why? The stimulus package invests in projects that will create jobs, like highway and road construction and building veterans healthcare facilities. These investments will not only create jobs in the short term, but set the stage for long-term economic growth.

The stimulus package passed in the House also includes a \$500 million amendment I introduced to help develop the next generation of biofuels, creating new jobs in Iowa while reducing our dependence on oil.

While we need immediate action to create jobs, it's also very important that we have oversight and accountability to ensure that every dollar is well spent. I'm working to ensure taxpayer money isn't wasted-and the public will get the opportunity to track the stimulus' progress since every dollar spent will be posted on a public website.

The economic stimulus package is the first step to creating jobs and getting our economy moving again. For more information on the stimulus, please visit the Economic Stimulus Package section of my website at <http://braley.house.gov> .